

differently colored than the shaving aid strip, said coating including at least one coloring agent, said shaving aid material and said coating being depletable by solubility, abrasion or a combination thereof to provide a signal that the shaving aid strip should be replaced, irrespective of blade wear on said razor.

REMARKS

Paragraphs 1 and 2 of the Official Action are noted. It is believed that no response is required to those paragraphs.

In response to paragraph 3 of the Official Action, a new Declaration having legible signatures is submitted herewith.

In response to paragraph 4 of the Official Action, sketches showing proposed drawing corrections are submitted herewith. Upon approval by the Examiner, corrected formal drawings will be filed.

In response to paragraphs 5 and 6 of the Official Action, a new ABSTRACT is submitted herewith on a separate sheet. This new ABSTRACT is between 50 and 150 words in length.. Also the new ABSTRACT avoids the use of patent claim phraseology and it describes the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

In response to paragraph 7 of the Official Action, the specification has been amended to the matters noted in the Official Action. In addition other minor changes have been

made to improve the readability of the specification. Care has been taken to avoid the incorporation of new matter in these changes.

Regarding the suggestion to change "material 21" to - - 11 - - in line 15, the reference number "21" has been changed to - - 22 - -. This is because, as disclosed throughout the specification, and as indicted in Fig. 5, the coating 60 is deposited on the shaving aid material, i.e. material 22. This is because the shaving aid material 22 is one component of the shaving aid strip 11, and the coating 60, by virtue of its being disposed on the shaving aid strip 11, is likewise disposed on the shaving aid material 22.

In response to paragraph 8 of the Official Action, claim 3 has been amended to change "a thermoplastic shaving aid material" to "a shaving aid strip containing a shaving aid material". This is supported in the specification at page 6, lines 4, 5 and 16-19. Also the specification has been amended at page 9, line 16 to change "shaving aid material 21" to "shaving aid strip 11". The specification now states that the coating is disposed on the shaving aid strip (page 9, lines 13-16), which is what is recited in claim 3. Thus the specification complies with 35 U.S.C. §112.

In response to paragraph 9 of the Official Action, claim 3 has been amended to specify "a shaving aid strip containing a shaving aid material". It is submitted that the claim is now clear as to the structure to which it refers. Regarding the "means for indicating a change in the amount of shaving aid material", the structure to which this refers is set forth in the immediately following passage, which states:

"said means for indicating a change in the amount of shaving aid material comprising a coating disposed on or in

less than the whole of a top surface of the shaving aid strip so as to define one or more sections of coating that are differently colored than the shaving aid strip”.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that claim 3 now complies with 35 U.S.C. §112.

Regarding paragraphs 10 and 11 of the Official action, it is submitted that claim 3 as presented patentably distinguishes over cited patent to No. 5,388,331 to Doroodian-Shoja-Siamak (the Siamak patent).

Claim 3 as now presented specifies:

“means for indicating a change in the amount of shaving aid material comprising a coating disposed on or in less than the whole of a top surface of the shaving aid strip so as to define one or more sections of coating that are differently colored than the shaving aid strip”.

The significance of this is that one can know, before beginning to use a razor which is fitted with a shaving aid strip, whether or not the strip will provide an indication of a change in the amount of shaving aid material contained in the strip. Further, since the indicator is in the form of a coating which is disposed on less than the whole of the top surface of the shaving aid strip, the disappearance of the coating clearly represents a change in the amount of shaving aid material.

The Siamak patent does not disclose “a coating disposed on or in less than the whole of a top surface of the shaving aid strip”, as set forth in claim 3. Instead the cited patent only discloses a coating which covers the entire top surface of the lower layer. According to the Siamak patent:

“The two layers may have the same longitudinal cross-section (as, for example, in FIG. 7) or may have different longitudinal cross-sections to create different visual patterns—for example as shown in FIG. 3a, where the upper layer tapers from a thin edge at one end of the strip to a wide edge at the other”. (Column 3, lines 42-47).

Because the upper layer covers the entire lower layer before use, the Siamak indicator is not seen initially. The indicator appears only after an indeterminate amount of razor use, i.e. shown in Figs. 3b-j of the Siamak patent. Up to that point one cannot see, from looking at the razor, whether or not the razor does or does not contain an indicator. Further, when the indicator does appear there is no certainty as to whether this means that the razor has reached the end of its useful life or whether there will be a further indication.

The present invention overcomes these problems. With the present invention, one knows at the outset that an indicator is present; and the indicator only needs to disappear to indicate a change in the amount of shaving aid material. Two different indications, and their consequent ambiguity, are avoided with the present invention.

Claim 3 has also been amended, at the end, to incorporate the recitation “to provide a signal that the shaving aid strip should be replaced, irrespective of blade wear on said razor”. This addition, which conforms to the last recitation in claim 1 of applicant’s parent application (now U.S. Patent No. 6,295,733), further distinguishes over the Siamak patent, which is concerned only with indicating blade wear.

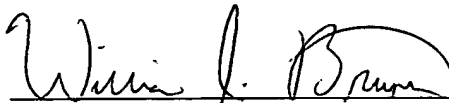
For the foregoing reasons, it is submitted that claim 3, as now amended, patentably distinguishes over the Siamak patent and is allowable.

Claim 4, which is dependent on claim 3, patentably distinguishes over the Siamak patent for the same reasons as claim 3.

It is submitted that in view of the foregoing, this application is now in condition for allowance. Further consideration by the Examiner and allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "William J. Brunet", written over a horizontal line.

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE TO SPECIFICATION

The paragraph starting at page 4, line 22 and ending at line 30 has been amended as follows.

A further embodiment involves a three-layer strip, in which both of the outside layers are of [an]a water soluble or a combination of soluble and non-soluble material of a first color and the center layer is of a non-water soluble material of a second color. Such a tri-layered strip would allow the strip to be attached to the razor cartridge during manufacture without concern for the orientation of the top and the bottom of the strip. A tri-layered strip would be particularly useful when the strip is manufactured by the process of extrusion.

The paragraph starting at page 6, line 16 and ending at line 27, has been amended as follows.

Figure 2 illustrates one embodiment of the shaving aid of the present invention. A water soluble coloring agent 20 of a first color and a non-water soluble coloring agent 21 of a second color are located in the shaving aid strip 11, along with thermoplastic material 23 and a shaving aid material

22. Initially, when both coloring agents 20, 21 are present, the shaving aid strip 11 is a third color which is a combination of the colors of the two coloring agents. In a preferred embodiment, the solubility of the water soluble coloring agent is in accordance with the solubility of the shaving aid material so that the water soluble coloring agent leaches from the shaving aid at a similar rate due to exposure to water during usage as that of the shaving aid material.

The paragraph starting at page 6, line 29 and ending at page 7, line 2, has been amended as follows.

During shaving, the shaving aid comes into contact with water and the water soluble coloring agent 20, along with the shaving aid material 22, leaches from the shaving aid strip 11. As the water soluble coloring agent 20 leaches from the shaving aid, the color of the shaving aid changes from the third color to the second color, i.e., the color of the non-water soluble coloring agent 21. When the shaving aid changes to the second color the user receives an automatic visual signal that the shaving aid of the razor head is depleted.

The paragraphs starting at page 7, line 4 and ending at line 27, have been amended as follows.

Common types of coloring agents which may be used are dyes, which are organic-based compounds, and pigments, which are either organic or inorganic. Typical inorganic pigments include titanium dioxide, zinc sulfide, iron oxides, chromates, cadmiums, chromium oxides, ultramarines, mixed metal oxides and carbon black. Common organic pigments include quinacridones, disazos and [disazos]disazo condensates, monazo, monazos, naphthols, perylenes, benzimideazalones, isoindolinones, diarylides, quinophthalones, phthalocyanines, quinacridones, dioxazines, thioindigos, and tetrachloroisoiridolinones and combinations thereof.

Common dyes which may be employed as the coloring agents include azos, perinones, quinolines, xanthenes, azine and anthroquinones. The coloring agents, whether dyes or pigments, may be used in the form of a precolor, dry color, liquid color, or color concentrate. Specialty colorants, including pearlescent, metallic and fluorescent may be used separately or in addition to other coloring agents. In addition, other colorants of Food, Drug & Cosmetic or Drug & Cosmetic grade, such as nitro, azo, [triphenylmethane]triphenylmethane, xanthene, [quinoline]quinoline,

anthraquinone, indigoid, and pyrene classes of colorants, may be employed.

The color of any of the coloring agents may be enhanced through the addition of certain color enhancing materials such as titanium oxide.

The paragraph starting at page 8, line 17 and ending at line 33, has been amended as follows.

Figure 3 illustrates a cross-section of a further embodiment of the present invention. In this embodiment, the shaving aid strip 11 comprises two distinct layers. A lower layer 31 of thermoplastic material of a first color is mounted in a [non-skin engaging]non-skin-engaging position adjacent to the razor head and is non-water soluble. A water soluble or partially soluble upper layer 30 containing a water soluble coloring agent 32 of a second color is mounted in a skin-engaging position adjacent to the lower layer. The upper layer contains the shaving aid material 22. Thus, the shaving aid appears to the user as the second color prior to use and for a certain period of usage. Upon exposure to moisture during usage, the upper layer 30 deteriorates and uncovers the lower layer 31. Accordingly, the color of the shaving aid visible to the user changes from the second color of the upper

layer to the first color of the lower layer or a discernible intermediate color and the user is thereby notified of the need to replace the razor head.

The paragraph starting at page 8, line 17 and ending at page 9, line 11, has been amended as follows.

Figure 4 illustrates a cross section of a further preferred embodiment of the present invention which comprises a shaving aid having three distinct layers. Two water soluble or partially soluble outer layers 40, 41 of a first color consisting of water soluble coloring agent 44 and shaving aid material 22 coat a center layer 42 of a second color consisting of a non-water soluble thermoplastic material. The shaving aid strip 11 is mounted on the razor head with either outer layer adjacent to the razor head. According to this embodiment, both outer layers contain shaving aid material, and consequently the shaving aid may be mounted without concern for orienting the skin-engaging side so that it is in the correct position.

The paragraph starting at page 9, line 13 and ending at line 28, has been amended as follows.

Figure 5 illustrates a still further and most preferred embodiment of the present invention. Water soluble or partially soluble coating 60 is disposed upon a section of the surface of shaving aid material 22. Coating 60 wears off of the shaving aid material through solubility, abrasion or a combination thereof. The disappearance of the coating is a signal to the consumer that the shaving aid strip should be replaced. Coating 60 comprises materials which are able to, at least initially, withstand the conditions, such as heat and humidity, which are encountered during shaving. Coating 60 may also consist of more than one layer, such that one or more layers wear off during usage and either a lower layer or the shaving aid material is ultimately exposed. Various materials which may be employed as a coating which would withstand those conditions include shellacs, glazes, paints, rosins, resins, sealants, gums, lacquers or combinations thereof.

The paragraph starting at page 9, line 30 and ending at page 10, line 1, has been amended as follows.

While the coating illustrated in Figure 5 is a single stripe in the middle of the shaving aid material 22, a plurality of sections of the shaving aid may be coated and the coating or coatings may comprise any desired shape or

configuration. For example, multiple or single stripes, multiple or single spots, or multiple or single geometric shapes are all configurations which may be employed within the scope of the invention.

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES TO CLAIM 3

3. (amended) A shaving aid for a razor, comprising a shaving aid strip containing a shaving aid material and means for indicating a change in the amount of said shaving aid material, said means for indicating a change in the amount of shaving aid material comprising a coating disposed on or in less than the whole of a top surface of the shaving aid strip so as to define one or more sections of coating that are differently colored than the shaving aid strip, said coating including at least one coloring agent, said shaving aid material and said coating being depletable by solubility, abrasion or a combination thereof to provide a signal that the shaving aid strip should be replaced, irrespective of blade wear on said razor.

Application No. 09/0965,834
Attorney Docket: 00845.016500.1

The ABSTRACT has been replaced with the attached new ABSTRACT.